



Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan – Supporting access to dental care

The Australian Government will invest more than \$107.8 million towards adult public dental patient services for concession card holders.

Since 2013, the Australian Government has committed over \$1 billion to support adult dental care for concession card holders with an additional \$107.8 million in the 2022–23 Budget.

Over the past nine years, the Australian Government’s commitment to supporting public dental services for adults has delivered an additional 1.8 million dental services.

Through three National Partnership Agreements and the Federation Funding Agreement (FFA), public dental service wait times have been reduced from an average of 20 months to 12 months over the span of these agreements, which means more Australians can access critical dental services more quickly.

This funding supports the Australian Government’s commitment to improving access to public dental services for concession card holders, and ensuring the best evidence base is available to guide delivery of appropriate dental services to eligible Australian children to improve their oral health.

Why is this important?

Australia’s lower income households have a higher incidence of poor oral health, which can have a significant impact on their overall health and wellbeing, and can contribute to more significant health problems.

We know that the percentage of people who avoid or delay dental care due to the cost has increased over the last decade.

Continuing to invest in the FFA on Public Dental Services for Adults will ensure that more low income families can access essential oral health care. It also enables work to progress towards sustainable longer-term funding arrangements with the states and territories.

Who will benefit?

Australians on low and limited income, with concession cards, will benefit from continued dental support services, providing services to an additional 180,000 adult public dental patients per year.

This includes people in receipt of pensioner concession cards and health care cards, and in particular older Australians, people with disabilities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing more than \$107.8 million in 2022–23.